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University Hotel breaks blackout - 1939

THE University Arms management pleaded guilty to failing to obscure lights in the hotel and preventing them being visible outside the building.

Mr Bradford, the manager, said he had 400 windows and 40 skylights. It had been impossible to screen all these within 36 hours of war being declared.

The skylight in the kitchen took four men three days to screen properly.

Four of the six hotel porters who would have done the work had been called up and, although they had bought dark blinds, some light shone through little cracks.

They had also put notices in each room asking visitors not to open the windows until they had put the lights out.



Castle End Musicians are celebrated on postcards - 1908

THE antics of The Castle End Musicians, a band of boys and girls, have caused endless entertainments to the inhabitants of that part of Cambridge.

A lad who has had some experience of the Boys Brigade is the commander of the band, who form up in martial order, large and small, girl and boy, and parade up and down the streets with colours flying, playing the most extraordinary collection of musical instruments ever seen including toy drums and mouth organs.

Now a local photographer has elevated them to picture postcard celebrities.

The Castle End Musicians

City photographers 'aloof' - 1937

CABINET-SIZE portraits were invented in the spring of 1866 and John Werge visiting Cambridge two years later was surprised to find Cambridge men had not adopted it.

Writing in Photographic News of April 10, 1868, he says "while there is a rush for cabinet portraits in Oxford, Cambridge holds aloof."

Filthy water in Boxworth - 1931

THE sanitary inspector said he went to Boxworth to investigate an anonymous letter about the water supply.

He visited several houses and the people were complaining bitterly.

The local policeman fetched a bucket of water, and it was positively appalling.

"You can't stand the smell of it, let alone drink it", he said.

It was hardly necessary to send it away for analysis.

There was a pond on the green and the water was supposed to be filtered to the well.

Vicar praises free library scheme - 1923

THE vicar of Fordham has praised the free library scheme which is being run in the villages by the Cambridgeshire County Council.

Boxes of books of all classes are sent to the various villages, where demand for them has been found to exist, and are returned at the end of three months in exchange for a fresh supply.

The first boxes went to 65 villages and boxes were also sent to 43 elementary schools for the special use of children.

There are now 88 library centres in the county, and only 28 villages have not yet taken advantage of the benefit of the service.

The scheme aims to develop the reading habit amongst those who have, as yet, been content to read nothing but the Sunday newspaper and penny novelettes.

Those in authority have no desire to attain a standard which may be called "highbrow" but hope to increase a healthy appetite for good books



W Moss' shop where leaking barrels of petrol were discovered

Recruits leave by bus to war - 1914

SEVERAL recruits have left Newton to join Lord Kitchener's Army and, among them, are five from Newton Hall Estate.

Sir Charles Waldstein is making up the difference in the pay of his men, and is keeping open their places until they return.

Sawston has responded nobly to the country's call for recruits. Through the efforts of Mr. Huddlestone, 20 young fellows left by one bus last week.

The occasion was marked by a demonstration of goodwill by the inhabitants, and a hearty cheer was raised as the conveyance left Sawston.

There are already 80 names on the Roll of Honour, which is placed in a conspicuous position in the centre of the village.

Ex-Sgt. Major S. Hillyard, of High Street, Linton, has enrolled

80 recruits in three weeks.

Billeting disrupts schooling - 1914

THERE were, at present, about 1,000 soldiers based in Cambridge with another 1,000 expected.

All the tents were being used by other troops and winter was coming.

The Corn Exchange was unsatisfactory because of the small sanitary arrangements.

The Girls' and Boys' County School was already being used and now the military wanted Morley Memorial and the Melbourne Place schools for the training of recruits.

Emmanuel Church was prepared to give the free use of its schoolroom for the education of children.

The alternative was billeting troops on the better class houses where better class people could

supervise them.

But the university had been approached and the schools might not be needed, councillors heard.

Leaking petrol barrels in garage - 1914

A PETROLEUM inspector said Mr Moss, motor proprietor of Hills Road, was licensed for 200 gallons of petrol.

There was none in the garage but, in the yard, there were five barrels, some were leaking and there was a danger of fire.

In the stable were tanks containing petrol with more at the Bell Hotel.

Mr Moss said there was a tremendous demand from the military and it had to be supplied.

He had risked future business by refusing petrol to his private customers. All the petrol was confiscated and he was fined.



The University Arms Hotel broke blackout regulations in 1939